

works. We will fondly remember Ernie with a trademark cigar in hand and a smile on his face and the way his presence filled every room he entered. We will remember his generous and kind spirit, which lifted us all.

Our deepest condolences go to Ernie's beloved family, Sharon, Peter, and Jennifer. We mourn your great loss.

To Ernie, rest in peace, dear friend.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID E. BENOR

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am honored to thank and congratulate one of my constituents and one of the Federal Government's unsung heroes, David E. "Dave" Benor, who is retiring on January 3, 2021, after more than 48 years of service as a public health attorney at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the General Counsel, HHS-OGC.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1972, Mr. Benor began his career at HHS-OGC and never left, rising to positions of increasing responsibility throughout the years. Since 2004, he has served as the Associate General Counsel for Public Health. In this leadership role, he has led HHS-OGC's Public Health Division, a 100-person office within HHS-OGC that provides legal services to the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Surgeon General, and multiple agencies that comprise the Public Health Service, including the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Indian Health Service, the Health Services and Resources Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Mr. Benor has worked extensively on product liability, grant law, organ transplant, and vaccine issues, and has particular expertise with the Public Health Service safety net programs, in public health emergency response issues, and in implementing regulatory and compensation programs.

Mr. Benor has dedicated his entire career to implementing HHS's mission to advance the health of all people. He has done this by providing authoritative legal advice on major health initiatives, including those related to bioterrorism preparedness, biomedical research, organ transplantation, vaccine development and liability, and the provision of healthcare to medically underserved populations through such programs as the community health center program, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and maternal and child health grants. He has been a key legal adviser on the Department's international health initiatives, including Afghan and Iraqi reconstruction, global AIDS programs, and quarantine activities for diseases such as SARS, pandemic influenza, and monkey pox, and has been part of multidisciplinary teams working on the public health response to the War on Terrorism, including the response to anthrax attacks, smallpox vaccine development,

COVID-19, and pharmaceutical stockpile development.

Mr. Benor has received numerous awards throughout his career. In 2012, President Barack Obama awarded Mr. Benor the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, one of the highest awards that a career Senior Executive Service member may receive.

Dave Benor's impact on public health will be felt for years to come both through his work on a wide variety of public health programs and by the inspiring example he has provided for the many attorneys with whom he worked and mentored. I was pleased to have a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend as a symbol of our Nation's thanks to this outstanding public servant.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dave Benor for his distinguished service to our country and to wish him all the best in the coming years as he enjoys his well-earned retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT FRYE

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the career of New Hampshire State Trooper Scott Frye, who recently retired from the force.

A native of Milford, NH, Scott served with the New Hampshire State Police for more than 22 years as a road trooper, a member of the narcotics unit, and most recently as head of the executive protection detail. During his time in executive protection, Scott served under three Governors, including for 4 years during my time as Governor.

Through our work together, I saw firsthand Scott's commitment to the Granite State. He always sees the big picture; he can step into a room and immediately assess it and the people in it, both as a security risk, but also for need. Scott can find a way to connect with and put almost anyone at ease. As a result, he is greeted as a welcome friend wherever he goes in New Hampshire.

While Scott served for nearly a dozen years on the security detail of Governors, he never lost sight of his commitment and obligation to protect the safety of every person in New Hampshire.

Scott's experience and deep understanding of the Granite State were an important benefit to those he worked with. When we would travel to sites of natural disasters during my time as Governor, Scott always had a sense about who needed to be checked in with and what a community or a public safety official needed in challenging times. Even when his day ended and he was officially off-duty, if he were on his way home and an extra State trooper was needed, he would be there to help in any way that he could.

Perhaps nothing exemplifies Scott's dedication, bravery, and heroism more

than when he was driving Governor John Lynch in 2012 and they witnessed an accident. A car had gone through a guardrail, fallen into an embankment, and caught fire. Scott pulled over, and along with an off-duty firefighter, freed a man who was trapped in the vehicle—just seconds before it was engulfed in flames. For his lifesaving action, Scott was honored with a number of awards, including a Carnegie Medal, a national honor that recognizes those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

Throughout his service, Scott approached everything with humor, kindness, and patience. He never complained, and he always served with an incredible amount of professionalism.

Above all, Scott's main commitment was to his family. His service would not have been possible without the support and love of his wife Susan, his sons Zachary and Matthew, and his extended family.

I am grateful for Scott's friendship and his years of dedication to the people of New Hampshire. His retirement is well-deserved, and I know that he will continue to look for ways to improve his community and the entire Granite State.

I hope that you will join me in recognizing the years of service of State Trooper Scott Frye.●

REMEMBERING DEE BENSON

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Judge Dee Benson, who passed away this week after a heroic battle with cancer. Dee had a remarkable and far-reaching legal career, making an impact throughout Utah and the country. But even more than that, he has made an indelible mark as a beloved teacher, mentor, role model, and friend.

Dee grew up on small farm in Jordan, UT, across from the old Jordan High School. He served a 2-year mission in Sweden for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and afterwards attended BYU, graduating in 1973 with a degree in physical education. After a brief stint as a student teacher and soccer coach at Hillcrest High, he decided to change career paths and on a whim applied to law school.

Dee stumbled onto what would become a brilliant vocation in law. He was one of the very first law students at Brigham Young University, when my late father, Rex Lee, was founding BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School. Dee quickly took to law, grasping legal concepts with speed and ease, and soon became a star of his class, even without spending all his time in the library. He was an equally affable student, loved by all of his classmates. A gifted athlete, he still managed to participate in school activities and sports while in law school, even playing for the soccer team during his final year and finishing near the top of his class.

After graduating in 1976, Dee spent a few months playing professional soccer

with the Utah Golden Spikers of the American Soccer League, and then turned to his law career. He started out in private practice, first at Marineau and Mack and then at Christensen and Martineau. He would later be appointed to positions at the highest levels of law by Presidents, Chief Justices, and Senators.

He came to Washington first to work as counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee. Dee was then-Senator Orrin Hatch's chief of staff for 2 years and while there served as counsel on the Iran-Contra Congressional Investigating Committee. He worked as U.S. attorney from 1989 until 1991, when he was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, where he served for nearly three decades.

As Federal judge, he was appointed as one of the seven judges to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Court by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, frequently flying to Washington to review requests for warrants and wiretaps against suspected spies and terrorists. He was also appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve on the Judicial Conference of the United States, a policy-making body within the Federal judicial system.

Dee had a deep love of the law and true impartiality as a jurist. In all of his duties, he never sought to impose his own agenda but simply to get the law right—not according to his own personal beliefs or feelings but as he understood it. And as much as Dee loved the law, he was loved by those around him. He brought kindness, humor, and fun to every environment. He was known to keep a bicycle in his chambers and a dart board for his clerks.

I myself was lucky enough to have him as my first boss when I clerked for him the year after I graduated from law school. I learned more about the practice of law during that clerkship than I did during all 3 years of law school combined. I will never forget our countless conversations about the law—deep dives on everything from compelled-speech doctrine, the coconspirator hearsay rule, and the requirements for authenticating so-called “ancient documents” under the Federal Rules of Evidence—in the courtroom and in his chambers and sometimes even while mountain biking or during a game of ping pong or darts.

Everyone at the courthouse—from the prosecutors to the defense counsel, from civil litigants to criminal defendants, from probation officers to support staff—loved and learned daily from Judge Benson. Despite his keen intellect and prominence, he was one of the most humble, genuine people I have ever known. He cared deeply about the happiness of those around them and left everyone more happy and encouraged than when he found them. He treated each person who came into his courtroom with dignity and respect, no matter who you were.

Throughout the years, Dee retained his passion for sports and zest for life. He ran marathons, was an avid mountain biker, and mastered every sport that caught his interest. He was a devoted father who, despite the many demands on his time, seemed to maintain constant contact with each of his four children, taking delight in every word they uttered and every activity they pursued.

Even his cancer diagnosis would not dampen his spirit or slow him down. After being partially paralyzed and bedridden this past May, by the end of the month he had returned to his chambers in Salt Lake City and had come into work as recently as last week—steadfast and strong until the end.

Judge Dee Benson was a true public servant, a gift to Utah and to everyone who had the good fortune to meet him. For those of us who knew and loved Dee, the world will now seem incomplete; but it has been an honor and a blessing to call him a mentor and a friend. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:17 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1153. An act to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 461. An act to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and community partnerships and engagement, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8428. An act to provide for temporary protected status for residents of Hong Kong, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President Pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today,

December 8, 2020, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 1982. An act to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3349. An act to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3465. An act to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

At 6:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 8428. An act to provide for temporary protected status for residents of Hong Kong, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 8, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company